

CITY OF REDMOND ARTS COMMISSION

MINUTES

September 10, 2009
City Hall Council Chambers

"Voice the views of the community to Mayor and City Council in reference to all cultural endeavors"

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chair John Stilin, Vice Chair Latha Sambamurti, Commissioners Seema Chaudhary, Tom Flynn, Jill Krusinski, Clint McCune, and Eva Moon

ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Goi Holliday, Bridgett Ezzard

STAFF PRESENT: Mary Yelanjian, Arts Administrator

YOUTH ADVOCATES PRESENT: Thomas Moore, Christine Ito

GUESTS PRESENT:

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AGENDA

Note: Bold/italic text denotes Staff and Commissioner follow-up resulting from this meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Stilin called to order the regular meeting of the Redmond Arts Commission (RAC) at 7:21 p.m. at the Redmond City Council Chambers.

II. MEETING ORGANIZATION

A. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Item VII. Senior Center Art Review postponed to the next meeting.

B. CHAIR/VICE CHAIR REPORTS

Vice Chair Sambamurti attended the tent exhibition this summer and thought it was an excellent event and noted that it is a 4culture Site Specific program. She also enjoyed Junk Chime. Chair Stilin noted that before the meeting, Commissioners had seen a preview of the public art that would be at Redmond Center.

III. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There were no items from the audience.

IV. STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW AND REVISION

The draft strategic plan was discussed by the Commission. Commissioner Chaudhary said that the draft did a great job of incorporating the discussion and came out well. Commissioner Krusinski said that it hardly looked like last year's plan. She preferred the vision statement *Arts and Culture Connect the Community through imagination and spirit*. She suggested for the strategy to include *Create a place for the arts and our shared cultures*. Krusinski also pointed out the importance of having a strong Arts Administrator and the collaboration between the Arts Commission and the Arts Administrator as key to success. Vice Chair Sambamurti identified areas where the grammar could be improved and suggested that the term Arts & Culture was used rather loosely. She suggested changing the mission to Be the catalyst for diversity and inventiveness in Redmond's community. She asked whether the sub-categories were goals. She said that "safe" should be replaced by something more positive like stimulating and rewarding. Chair Stilin said that the Commission is going to need to think about redefining its role if it decides to change the name of the commission to Arts & Culture. That would require a request to the City Council. He also said that he saw the strategic plan as a framework for the high level mission and vision of the Commission and that the goals could change while the framework stays the same. He thought that the document is missing a Key Results or Measurements section but that that could be added later. Youth Advocate Moore liked the idea of being a catalyst for something artistic. Commissioner Moon said that the document was better put together than she expected and that she was impressed. She said that culture needs to be better defined and that it should be added to the mission. She also suggested Make it Safe to be an Artist in Redmond should be phrased more positively. Commissioner McCune said that he understands his role as an Arts Commissioner and believes the role of the Arts Administrator is really important. He said that Arts is a Celebration of Culture and that Arts is how a culture celebrates who we are. He said that he was impressed with the document and is going to think about how to rephrase Make it Safe to Be an Artist. Youth Advocate Ito liked how the document was very clear and easy to read. She thought it was accessible to a general audience. She said that "culture" is already implied in the "arts." Commissioner Flynn thanked Chair Stilin for taking on the re-writing of the plan and said that he liked the introduction a lot. He thought that incorporating culture opens up more opportunities to us as a Commission. He questioned how we shape culture within the City. He likes the vision statement, Arts and Culture Connecting Community through Imagination and Spirit. Chair Stilin noted that when a document is too precise it can leave people out of the tent. Culture lets more people into the tent. He likes the idea of Arts & Culture because it brings more people together. Chair Stilin said that he likes the document as a whole because it captures the strategy as a whole. He discussed how the

plan includes the citizens priorities as defined in the budgeting by priorities process including connecting community. ***Stilin asked the Commission to email suggestions and changed to Yelanjian by September 20 in order to have another draft to review in October.***

Commissioner Moon began the discussion on the use of Culture in the plan. She noted that organizations that embrace Arts & Culture open themselves up to greater possibilities and opportunities such as history, culinary arts, zoos, etc. Commissioner Sambamurti explained how 4Culture uses the idea of culture in a very specific way relating to how the arts, heritage, and preservation create culture. She suggested going through the document to use Arts & Culture more consistently.

Intermission

V. STAFF REPORT - Yelanjian **RAC Meetings and Activities**

September 16, Slough Park Public Meeting, ORSCC Room 104, 7 pm
September 24, Sammamish Valley Park Public Meeting, Location TBD
September 25, Boards and Commissions Dinner, Redmond Senior Center, 6 pm
October 27, Joint Meeting with the Redmond City Council, 7:30 pm
November 28-December 5, Christopher Janney Sonic Forest Exhibition
December 5, Nocturnal Digital Arts Festival, Redmond Town Center & City Hall
January 16, Daylight Digital Arts Festival, Redmond City Hall

Arts in the Parks – The Arts in the Parks program is completed for the summer. In 2009, we increased the number of performances from 6 to 13, decreased the budget by approximately 25%, and increased attendance from 1,000 to over 4,000.

RFP for Juel Park – Requests for proposals to develop uses for the buildings and select areas of Juel Park are due September 30. At the public meeting held in August, representatives from the Redmond Historical Society, DigiPen Institute of Technology, Marymoor Community Gardens, and others attended. Rob Kmiec, Head of the Art Program at DigiPen intends to submit a proposal to create an art program in the park.

Tony Angell Sculpture Exhibition – The contract is completed and the artist will present 8 pieces. An option exists to sell Angell's book to raise funds for the purchase of the sculpture. Marketing is underway along with a new art map that includes both temporary and permanent art.

Digital Arts Festival – Negotiations are underway to bring Christopher Janney's Sonic Forest to Redmond for exhibition, November 28-December 5 at Redmond Town Center. The piece would be part of Redmond Lights (December 5) and the Nocturnal Digital Arts Festival. I am developing 3-4 other DAF installations. The daytime DAF will include classes and presentations and take place January 16 at Redmond City Hall.

Christopher Janney – A proposal has been received to create interactive street lights on Cleveland Street. I am working with transportation and planning to develop the project.

Community Band – Seeking proposals and identifying interest in starting a Redmond Community Band.

Junior High Sculpture – The Redmond Junior High has requested a sculpture to be installed at their site for 2009-2010. They selected a new piece by James Madison. Installation is planned for October 2009.

Redmond Symphony Day – Working with the Lake Washington School District to send all 3rd graders to the Seattle Symphony for a performance.

RFP for Idylwood Beach Park – Requesting proposals for murals to be painted on the Idylwood Beach House.

Commissioner Moon expressed concern that the change in how the Digital Arts Festival is being presented would hurt the Festival's ability to grow. She expressed the importance of having a signature arts festival in Redmond. Yelanjian said that she thinks the Festival is more likely to grow through a partnership with Redmond Lights and that the Arts Commission does not have adequate funding or staffing to produce and present the Digital Arts Festival in a manner consistent with the vision of the arts commission and that it would take at least 5 years to do so.

VI. GRANT APPLICATION REVIEW

Flynn liked how the organization used so many volunteers and served so many people. Krusinski thought that the proposed project did not fit into the Commission's strategic plan. Stilin liked that the organization supports our community and that local musicians might be able to participate in the group.

Motion to approve the \$1300 Project Support Grant for Eastside Symphony: Commissioner Moon
Second by: Commissioner Sambamurti
Motion carried: 6-1 with Commissioner Krusinski opposed

Flynn said that RASP has a long history with the community and has supported many literary arts programs in Redmond. Krusinski liked that it was consistent with the strategic plan. Sambamurti pointed out that the expenses of the organization exceeded the revenue. She thought it possible that the organization would not be able to administer the grant for that reason. Stilin said that it would be good to know whether the teen center could support the project out of its own budget.

**Motion to approve the \$1000 Project Support Grant for RASP
(Redmond Association of Spoken Word): Commissioner Moon
Second by: Commissioner McCune
Motion not carried: 0-6 with Commissioner Flynn abstaining**

VII. GENERAL NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements

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IX. MOTION TO ADJOURN

**Motion to adjourn the meeting: Commissioner Krusinski
Second by: Commissioner McCune
Motion carried: 7-0 unanimous**

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Arts Administrator, Mary Yelanjian.

**NEXT REDMOND ARTS COMMISSION MEETING:
October 8, 2009
City Council Conference Room
7:00 p.m.**

Redmond Arts Commission

Meeting: September 10, 2009

Audience Present

Please note: Information provided at this public meeting becomes part of the City's permanent record.

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE